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Letter from John Patterson to his mother Julia July 26th, 1864

John H. Patterson

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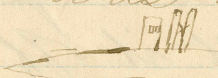
Federal Hill
July 26th

Dear Mother.

I received
your letter this morning
and was sorry to hear
that Frank was sick,
especially with the lung
fever. I hope he will
soon be well. You say
you have not received
any letters from me
for some time. I write
about every four days
and never put it off
longer than a week.
I have been very well
since I have been here.
And we have plenty to
eat and plenty of good
boys to go with.

I dony St Forgy Ed West
and I went out to
a long bridge where
some of our boys are
stationed. Andy Nixon
Sam Steele Bill Lehart
and four others.

We saw the celebrated
Cigar Steamer of Winans.
Winans is a rebel and
made this to run the
blockade. It was confiscated
by the U.S. We were all
over it. And it was a
queer looking craft;
it was this shape



~~It is~~ It is rounded and made
of iron. It proved a failure
and is laying up in the
harbor near the long bridge,
the bridge is $\frac{7}{8}$ of a mile long.

We fished for crabs the rest of the day and caught about 50. The way we caught them was by tying a piece of fresh meat upon a string and throwing it into the water.

They catch hold of it and then we pull up slow untill we get them to the top of the water.

We then take a net and lift them out. We are going out to have them for supper to night.

They are very large and taste something like a crawfish. But a great deal better. They are nearly round and have a hard shell. And large pickers.

There is another run now.

afloat that the kebs
are at Martinsburg
near Harpers Ferry. And
as it is confirmed it must
be so. They are reported
very strong. I know if
they try to take this
place they will have
to lose a good many
men before they succeed.
The people are moving
from Frederick and all
the gov. stores are being
sent away from there;
And Sigels wagon train
which left here last Sunday
is returning to this place.
We cannot tell whether
we will see them or not
but will write to you if
we leave this place.

Wm Chambers was sick
with the lung fever at
St Marshall a few days ago,
I have not heard from him
within the last three days.
I think it was the lung fever
I am not sure. Well I will
write tomorrow. John